

## Sefton Corporate Parenting Permanence Panel.

### Terms of Reference

#### Aim/Purpose of Permanence Panel

It is proposed that the Permanence Panel will be introduced to consider Care planning arrangements for our looked after children. The panel will ensure children and young people have a robust care plan in place and drift and delay is reduced

The panels will focus upon the following cohort of children and young people to explore, placement stability, multiple changes of placement, children Placed with Parents, children accommodated under Section 20 (CA89) and unregulated placements. It is hoped that the formulation of the panel will reduce drift and delay and secure permanency at the earliest point.

This panel will consist of the IRO Manager, Service Manager for Corporate Parenting and Team Manager for the Fostering Service, with an expectation that the IRO/Social worker/Supervising Social Worker attend each panel. The focus of this panel is to ensure that recommendations/advice/support provided are captured and fed into care planning for children. Social workers will be asked to report on the strengths and weaknesses of the care plan and monitor key changes or significant events in care planning

#### Unregulated Placements

Children who are placed in unregulated placements including section 24/25 that are beyond statutory timescales, semi-independent placements, and supported lodgings. This will ensure placement is safe and meets the need of the young person.

- Ensure that a risk assessment is completed and recorded on the system.
- Discussions will take place regarding the longer-term plans and appropriateness of moving a child or young person to a placement that is regulated.
- If placement is meeting needs and promoting independence (semi-independent placement/ supported Lodgings)
- Explore if young person is receiving care or support
- Explore drift in assessments, including regulation 24/25 and Placed with Parents to understand the reason for delay.
- Determine the frequency of visits to placements

#### Placement Stability and Multiple Placement Moves

Children who experience placement breakdowns and multiple placements moves, often have poorer outcomes than the children and young people placed in stable accommodation. We need to understand the reasons for breakdowns and why multiple moves occur.

- Explore stability meetings have taken place,
- explore if additional support could have been implemented to stabilise the placements,
- Review the matching process.
- Determine what additional support is required to ensure the placement remains stable.

### Placed with Parents

To track and monitor children Placed with Parents under section 31(CA89) to reduce drift and delay in planning.

- Ensure Placed with Parent regulations are being followed.
- Determine if the local authority still requires to parental responsibility
- Consider discharging orders and secure permanency on less intrusive orders, including Supervision Orders or no order
- Placed with parents to be tracked on 3 monthly intervals until a decision made regarding the suitability of the plan

### Kinship Arrangements

Monitor and review children subject to kinship arrangements.

- Support these children and young people in securing permanency on less intrusive orders including Special Guardianship Orders and Child Arrangement Orders.
- Ensure the kinship placement remains appropriate and carer continue to reach fostering standards

### Children Placed Under Section 20 (CA89)

Monitor and review children placed under Section 20(CA89),

- Avoid drift and delay in planning.
- Determine if accommodation under Section 20 (CA89) continues to be required and is appropriate.
- Explore if there is any additional support that can be made available to support the children to return to their birth family.
- Consider if we need a legal order to secure permanency.

### Children and young people subject to Interim Care Orders

- Once the order is made the child or young person needs to be added to the panel tracker.
- Explore court timeframes are adhered to.
- Directions of the court are being followed. (i.e., expert assessments)
- Avoid drift and delay in planning

### **Children with a Plan for Adoption**

- All children with a plan for adoption are linked with AIM
- Family finding has been started
- Ensure that all court directions and timescales are adhered too
- CPR is completed and the case is booked for ADM decision to place for adoption.
- Avoid drift and delay in planning

It is hoped that these panels will strengthen care planning for children, promote stability, reduce drift, and delay and ensure we are compliant with care planning regulations for our looked after cohort.

### **Panel Chair**

Julie Bucknall Service Manager for Corporate Parenting

Kay Prescott Service Lead Frond Door and Locality

### **Vice Chairs**

Simon Fisher Service Manager Fostering

Ali Wellman Service Manager Locality South

Sian Hudson Service Manager North and Central

Lynn Mackintosh Service Manager Safeguarding

### **Members of panel**

Debbie Massam Manager for Independent Reviewing team

Michelle Tomlinson Manager Fostering Team

Craig Broughton Adoption Lead AIM

### **Panel Administer**

Margaret Gilbert

Social workers, independent reviewing Officers and Supervising social workers will be invited into each meeting when discussing cases they are responsible for